



Host an ENERGY STAR® Battle of the Buildings™ Competition

Talking Points and Messages

Hosting an ENERGY STAR Battle of the Buildings Competition

- Competitions are a great way to inspire participants to save money and shrink their environmental footprint by challenging them to improve their property's energy efficiency. EPA has found that a spirit of healthy competition and the opportunity for recognition are among the best drivers for participation in organization- or community-wide energy management.
- An ENERGY STAR Battle of the Buildings competition is modeled after EPA's ENERGY STAR National Building Competition. This national competition recognizes organizations for reducing energy use over a one year period. The competition leverages ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, a free online energy and water tracking tool, as the platform for data tracking and collection.
- An ENERGY STAR Battle of the Buildings competition is a ready-made platform that organizations can customize to motivate their own partners to improve energy efficiency and protect the environment

About the EPA ENERGY STAR National Building Competition

- The ENERGY STAR National Building Competition challenges organizations to trim waste and reduce their energy consumption. The competition draws thousands of buildings each year from around the nation, representing hundreds of millions of square feet of space.
- EPA National Building Competition participants represent dozens of building types, and come from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. They also range in age, from brand new to more than 100 years old.
- Competitors measure and track their building's energy consumption using EPA's free online energy and water tracking tool called Portfolio Manager. As competitors track their energy use and improve their energy efficiency, many will work toward earning ENERGY STAR certification for their building, which is an indication of superior energy efficiency. More information about building certification is available at <https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/facility-owners-and-managers/existing-buildings/earn-recognition/energy-star-certification>
- Past winners of the EPA National Building Competition have achieved energy savings of more than 50 percent over a one year period, and in 2012, the finishers reduced energy efficiency by 8 percent and saved \$25,000, on average.
- The EPA ENERGY STAR National Building Competition website provides resources for current competitors that can be adopted by competition hosts to support their efforts. The website also provides information about winners of past competitions. Visit this site for more information: www.energystar.gov/battleofthebuildings



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Commercial Building Energy Use

- Energy use in commercial buildings accounts for nearly 20 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and energy use at a cost of more than \$100 billion per year.
- On average, 30 percent of the energy used in commercial buildings is wasted.
- The energy we use in the buildings where we work, play, and learn most often comes from the combustion of fossil fuels at power plants, which contributes to climate change. The less energy we use, the fewer greenhouse gases we produce, and improving energy efficiency is the single best way to eliminate energy waste.
- As building occupants, we can do many of the same things we do at home to save energy, like turn off lights and lamps when we leave the room, power down computers when they aren't in use, and unplug the charger from the wall after our cell phone is charged. These small steps can save a lot of energy.
- Engineers can do their part by making sure building systems, such as air conditioning, heating, and lighting, are working properly and consistently maintained, and upgraded to more efficient technologies when appropriate and cost-effective.

About ENERGY STAR

- EPA ENERGY STAR originated in 1992 as a market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency. Today, the ENERGY STAR label can be found on more than 60 different kinds of products, as well as new homes and commercial and industrial buildings that meet strict energy-efficiency specifications set by EPA. Last year alone, Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, saved \$24 billion on their energy bills while reducing greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 41 million vehicles.
- The ENERGY STAR brand is recognized by more than 85 percent of consumers and is also one of the most trusted brands in the United States.
- Buildings that earn EPA's ENERGY STAR certification perform in the top 25 percent of similar facilities nationwide. These certified buildings consume, on average, 35 percent less energy than typical buildings and contribute 35 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions, while providing the same or better services and comfort.
- The energy and water consumption of more than 40 percent of the US commercial building space is tracked using the ENERGY STAR tool called Portfolio Manager. Portfolio Manager, a free online tool (www.energystar.gov/benchmark), provides more than 150 metrics to help users manage their resource use.
- Learn more about the ENERGY STAR commercial buildings program at www.energystar.gov/buildings, and follow the EPA National Building Competition at www.energystar.gov/BattleOfTheBuildings